

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 as follows:

In order to enhance riding comfort and silence degree of a vehicle, there is proposed a vehicular elastic wheel as described ~~in the following patent publication~~ for example in JP-A-2003-104001.

Please remove the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 14.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 21, ~~the elastic~~ this elastic wheel includes a rim "a" for supporting a tire, a disk b to be fixed to an axle, and a rubber damper c made of elastic rubber for connecting the rim "a" and the disk b. A gap d is provided between an inner circumference side of the rim "a" and a radially outer portion of the disk b. Therefore, a load variation in the radial direction applied to the elastic wheel is absorbed by shearing deformation of the rubber damper c. Thus, the elastic wheel exhibit high buffering effect with respect to small vibration input from a road, and the riding comfort and noise-reduction performance are largely enhanced. When a load in the direction of the axle is applied to the elastic wheel, a portion of the rubber damper c is compressed and deformed and thus, the rigidity is maintained at high level and steering stability is maintained.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 19 as follows:

The external ~~flange 21A~~flange 21 is provided on its both sides with a pair of second grooves 23 each extending in the circumferential direction and facing each first groove 22.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 3 as follows:

To prevent the large slip in the circumferential direction more reliably, as shown in Fig. 5(B) and Fig._6, as for each first and second grooves 22 and 23, a plurality of circumferentially spaced groove segments 26 arranged along the circumferential direction may be used.